

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 2), Applicant respectfully submits the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

I. Preliminary Matters

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the Examiner contends "the language used to describe the invention is indefinite." By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the abstract to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to the abstract.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

II. The Present Invention

The present invention is directed the transmission of command or information messages from a local exchange of a telephone network to a telephone subscriber terminal unit via an analog telephone line. As shown in the Figure, a telephone network 1 includes a telephone exchange 2 including information processing means 2D and linked via analog telephone lines L to a main mobile telephone unit 7 of a mobile telephone network 6, a master station 5 of a shared

telephone installation 4, and a telephone exchange 2'. Terminal units such as telephones 3 are individually connected to the local telephone exchange 2' by an analog telephone line L. The master station 5 of the shared telephone installation 4 serves a plurality of telephone subscriber terminals 3' and includes information processing means (management logic unit) 5D associated with switching means 5C. The main mobile telephone unit 7 of serves accredited users having mobile telephone terminals 8 and includes switching means 7C and a management logic unit 7D enabling it to operate on the switching means 7C in particular, as a function of the needs of users and what resources are available.

The local exchange 2 is able to transmit information to the telephone subscriber terminal units (main mobile telephone unit 7, master station 5 and telephones 3) in the context of exchanges of messages between their hardware and/or software communication and information processing means 2D and 5D or 7D, in addition to transmitting analog or digitized speech signals and telephone signaling. The messages are formatted so that they can be used directly by the information processing means that receive them and coded in a manner that enables an analog telephone line to transmit them and the receiving telephone terminal to receive them and interpret them. The messages are transmitted in the V23 or DTMF code, for example, and the receiving terminal unit is equipped with transcoding means for translating them into a conventional binary code that can be used by the processing means of the unit, such as the management logic units 5D and 7D.

The messages enable the local exchange of a telephone subscriber terminal unit to respond by means of a message commanding action on a service request, such as dialing a party

or activating an additional service. One embodiment transmits messages intended to be displayed on the screen of the terminal unit itself, for example if that unit is a telephone with a screen, or a terminal served by that unit, if the latter is of the shared installation type. For example, there is provision for transmitting and/or displaying messages reflecting acceptance or rejection of a service request submitted by a telephone subscriber terminal unit to the telephone network at the instigation of a user of said unit.

There is also provision for transmitting and/or displaying information messages on the screen of a unit or of a terminal that it serves, in particular in the event of an error or a fault in the network, for example relating to a request for a particular operation from the unit to its local exchange. There is a provision for being able to transmit command or information messages from a local exchange to a telephone subscriber terminal unit at the time of an operation such as conditional call set-up as and when characteristic stages in its progress occur. There is provision for displaying specific error or malfunction information messages if a called telephone or mobile telephone terminal is busy, if there is traffic congestion temporarily preventing a called user from being reached, or if an unassigned or inappropriate call number is sent by a terminal unit to its local exchange at the instigation of a user of the terminal unit.

III. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Catanzaro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,502,727; hereafter "Catanzaro"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Catanzaro.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5 and 6 to improve clarity and further define the claimed invention. In particular, claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to recite that the command or information messages of the present invention are generated by and transmitted from the local exchange. Applicant respectfully submits that Catanzaro does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Catanzaro is directed to a telephone apparatus enables the approximate simultaneous transmission and reception of audio interleaved with image and graphical annotation signals, in data packet form, over an analog line which connects the apparatus to a switched telephone network. The audio data packets are transmitted at a periodic rate, during a first time interval, and the image and annotation data packets are transmitted during a second time interval, following the first time interval, enabling the simultaneous output of voice, image and annotation data at the receiver site. Control data packets, as needed, are also transmitted during the second time interval for end-to-end apparatus control.

However, Catanzara discloses the data packets of audio, image and graphical annotation signals are generated and transmitted by enhanced phones (i.e., the data packets are transmitted from one enhanced phone to another enhanced phone). On the other hand, the present invention teaches that the command or information messages are generated by and transmitted from the local exchange.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5 and 6, as well as dependent claims 2-4, should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or

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suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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